

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
ACDA-12 IO-13 EB-08 NRC-05 OES-07 SOE-02 DOE-11
CEQ-01 MCE-00 /120 W
-----089828 021800Z /43

P R 021512Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3171
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 STOCKHOLM 0853

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, SW UR
SUBJECT: SWEDISH DEMARCHE TO SOVIET AMBESSADOR ON SOVIET SUBMARINES

REF: STOCKHOLM 0832 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY. REGARDING SWEDISH DEMARCHE TO SOVIET
AMBASSADOR YAKOVLEV FEBRUARY 28 EXPRESSING CONCERN RE
SOVIET NUCLEAR-WEAPON SUBMARINES IN BALTIC, WE ARE
INFORMED THAT MFA SECRETARY-GENERAL LEIFLAND HAD PLANNED
TO RAISE THIS QUESTION IN MOSCOW. TAKING STORY IN SWEDISH
PRESS AS POINT OF DEPARTURE, HE EXPRESSED CONCERN TO
YAKOVLEV ABOUT NUCLEAR WEAPONS FROM WHATEVER SOURCE
COMING CLOSER AND CLOSER TO SWEDISH BORDERS, POINTED OUT
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THERE WERE NO NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN NORDIC COUNTRIES, AND
SAID SWEDEN WISHED TT SEE OTHER COUNTRIES USE RESTRAINT
IN NORDIC AREA SO THAT NORDIC BALANCE WAS NO DISTRUBED9
WE WERE TOLD THAT THIS DEMARCHE SHOULD BE VIEWED IN
BROAD PERSPECTIVE, INCLUDING THE KOSYGIN INCIDENT IN
HELSINKI IN DECEMBER AND THE NORWEGIAN ANNOUNCEMENT RE
FRG TROOPS IN NATO MANEUVERS THERE. WE BELIEVE THE GOS

DEMARCHE WAS INTENDED TO CORRECT PERCEPTIONS THAT THE USSR WAS THROWING ITS WEIGHT AROUND WITH ANY STRONG REACTION FROM THE NORDIC STATES. END SUMMARY.

2. RELIABLE HIGH-RANKING MFA SOURCE HAS PROVIDED INFORMATION ON DEMARCHE TO SOVIET AMBASSADOR YAKOVLEV BY MFA SECRETARY-GENERAL LEIF LEIFLAND FEBRUARY 28 CONCERNING SOVIET NUCLEAR-WEAPON SUBMARINES IN BALTIC. (SOURCE MADE IT CLEAR THAT SVENSKA DAGBLADET JOURNALIST WAS PROVIDED INFORMATION BY MFA, ALTHOUGH SOURCE MAFVVZCZ
ADP301
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5. COMMENT. WE BELIEVE THAT THE SWEDES HAVE BEEN CONCERNED THAT WHILE THE SOVIETS WERE MAKING NOISES ABOUT THE NEUTRON BOMB, THEY WERE IN FACT THEMSELVES INTRODUCING A POTENTIALLY DESTABILIZING ELEMENT INTO THE NORDIC SCENE. THE GOS HAS STATED PUBLICLY AND REAFFIRMED PRIVATELY THAT ITS PRIMARY CONCERN IS TO MAINTAIN THE STATUS QUO IN THE NORDIC BALANCE, WITHOUT ANY CHANGES BEING INTRODUCED. THE GOS HAS ALSO MADE CLEAR TO US THAT WHILE IT WOULD NEVER CRITICIZE NORWAY, IT DID NOT CONSIDER THE PRESENCE OF GERMAN TROOPS ON NATO MANEUVERS IN NORWAY DESTABILIZING. NEVERTHELESS, THE GOS APPARENTLY FELT THAT PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS, AND PROBABLY SOME GOVERNMENTAL PERCEPTIONS AS WELL, WERE THAT THE USSR
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WAS THROWING ITS WEIGHT AROUND IN THE NORDIC AREA WITHOUT ANY STRONG REACTION. WE BELIEVE THAT THIS DEMARCHE TO THE SOVIETS WAS LARGELY DESIGNED TO OFFSET THOSE PERCEPTIONS, ESPECIALLY IF THEY EXISTED IN MOSCOW.

6. TRANSLATION FOLLOWS OF FOREIGN MINISTER SODER'S STATEMENT AS CARRIED IN PRESS: BEGIN TEXT: WE ARE AWARE THAT THE SOVIET UNION ABOUT A YEAR AGO TRANSFERRED SIX OLDER NUCLEAR-WEAPON EQUIPPED SUBMARINES OF THE SO-CALLED GOLF CLASS TO THE BALTIC SEA. THE SUBMARINES, WHICH ARE DIESEL-POWERED, ARE NOW SEEN TO GO ON PATROL OUTSIDE THE SOVIET COAST. JUDGING FROM THEIR REACH, THE MISSILES ARE MEANT FOR TARGETS IN EUROPE. FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS WE HAVE STATED THAT NUCLEAR WEAPONS OF DIFFERENT TYPES HAVE BEEN STATIONED CLOSER AND CLOSER TO THE NORDIC AREA, INCLUDING NOW IN THE BALTIC SEA. THE CREDIBILITY OF POLITICAL DETENTE RISKS BEING DAMAGED IF THE SUPERPOWERS DO NOT UNDERTAKE MORE EFFECTIVE ARMS LIMITATION MEASURES INSTEAD OF DEVELOPING NEW NUCLEAR WEAPONS, AS WELL AS SPREADING EXISTING WEAPONS TO NEW AREAS. END TEXT. KENNEDY-MINOTT

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